Claims

1. (original) A method for collision detection, wherein a signal of a sensor (1) for collision detection is used; wherein the signal is filtered; wherein the unfiltered signal is compared with a predetermined plausibility threshold, and on the basis of the comparison and of the filtered signal, a collision is detected.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, characterized in that if the plausibility threshold is exceeded, a plausibility flag is set.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, characterized in that the plausibility flag is transmitted to a processor (8).

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 ~~or 3~~, characterized in that the plausibility flag is maintained for a predetermined length of time.

5. (original) An apparatus for collision detection, wherein the apparatus has a sensor for outputting a signal; wherein a filter (3) for filtering the signal is provided; wherein a threshold value decider (2) for the unfiltered signal is provided; and wherein a processor (8) is embodied such that as a function of an output signal of the threshold value decider (2) and of the filtered signal, it detects a collision.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, characterized in that the threshold value decider (2) is connected at its output to a hold element in such a way that the hold element keeps the output signal for a predetermined length of time.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5 ~~or 6~~, characterized in that the sensor (1) can be connected to a control unit (9), and the control unit (9) has the processor (8) and can be connected to restraint means (11).

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 7, characterized in that the filter (3) and the hold element are disposed in the control unit (9).

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 7, characterized in that the filter (3), the hold element, and a device for analog/digital conversion are disposed in a housing (12) together with the sensor (1).

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~one of claims 5 through 9~~ claim 5, characterized in that the sensor (1) is embodied as an acceleration sensor.